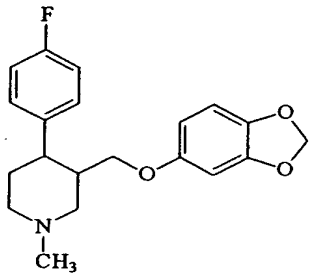
IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 1.119 (e) to U.S. Appl. No. 60/277,587, filed on March 21, 2001, and U.S. Appl. No. 60/266,498, filed on February 5, 2001, both entitled "Process for the Preparation of N-methylparoxetine."- -

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 15 with the following rewritten paragraph:

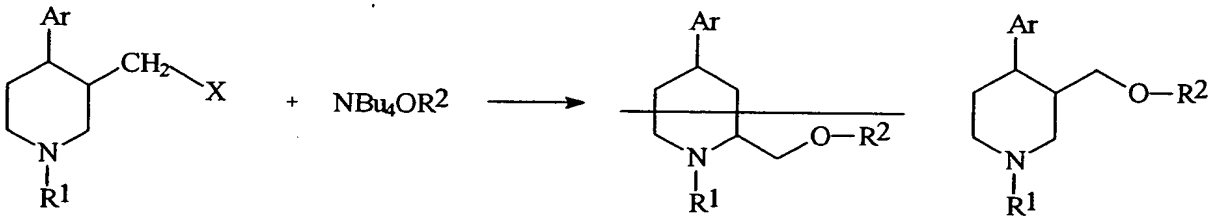
--~~N-methyl paroxetine~~ N-methylparoxetine has the following structure (II):



(II)

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention provides a process for preparing compound (VII) comprising reacting compound (V) with compound (VI) in an organic solvent:



(V) (VI) (VII) (VII)

wherein:

X is selected from the group consisting of halogen and -OSO2R^3;

Ar is phenyl optionally substituted by halogen, alkoxy or other inert group;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aralkyl, alkaryl, alkyloxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl and arylalkoxycarbonyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of aryl and heteroaryl, wherein any one or more of said aryl and heteroaryl are optionally substituted by the group consisting of alkyl, halogen, alkoxy, nitro, acylamino, methylenedioxy, alkyl sulfonyl, aryl sulfonyl, alkaryl sulfonyl and aralkyl sulfonyl; and

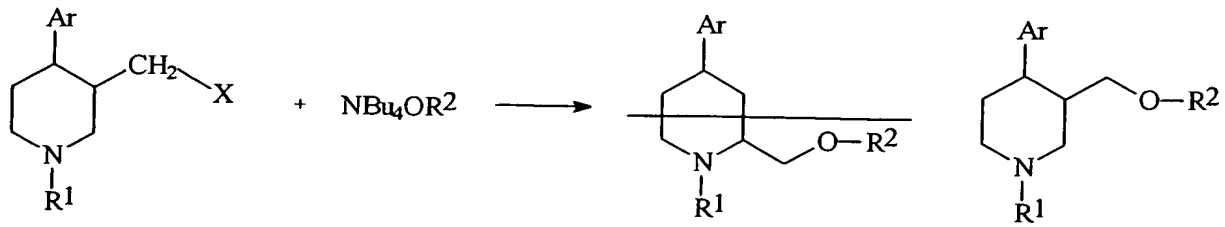
R^3 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl and alkaryl.- -

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- ~~ClPMA~~ CIPMA was also reacted by the Applicant with sesamol in liquid-solid PTC reactions in the presence of solvents such as toluene or acetonirile. The PTC reactions were performed in the presence of bases such as sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, potassium carbonate or barium hydroxide. Tetrabutylammonium bromide and tricaprylmethylammonium chloride, tributylbenzylammonium bromide, PEG 400 were used as PTC catalysts. However all of above described experiments, carried out by the Applicant, gave low yields of N-methylparoxetine and complex mixture of products including mostly ~~ClPMA~~ CIPMA. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention provides a process for preparing compound (VII) comprising reacting compound (V) with compound (VI) in an organic solvent:



(V) (VI) (VII) (VII)

wherein

X is selected from the group consisting of halogen and -OSO2 R^3;

Ar is phenyl optionally substituted by halogen, alkoxy or other inert group;

R^1 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, aralkyl, alkaryl, alkyloxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl and arylalkoxycarbonyl;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of aryl and heteroaryl, wherein any one or more of said aryl and heteroaryl are optionally substituted by the group consisting of alkyl, halogen, alkoxy, nitro, acylamino, methylenedioxy, alkyl sulfonyl, aryl sulfonyl, alkaryl sulfonyl and aralkyl sulfonyl; and

R^3 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl, aryl, aralkyl and alkaryl. - -.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 30, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The present invention reacts compound ~~V~~ (V) with compound ~~VI~~ (VI). Compound ~~V~~ (V) comprises of a piperidine and an aryl group. The aryl group of compound (V) may be substituted with a halogen, an alkoxy group or other inert groups. Other inert group refers to homologs of benzene, where by replacing a hydrogen on the aryl group with a CH_3 or higher alkyl groups, a series of homologs may be made, such as toluene or ethylbenzene. Preferably, the aryl group of compound (V) is substituted with a fluorine. The most preferable embodiment of the present invention has the fluorine in a para position because the fluorine is in the para position in paroxetine. (*See* compound (I)). - -

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--In one embodiment, the present invention uses aromatic solvents. Preferably, the aromatic solvent used is toluene. Other solvents with relatively the same polarity as toluene are preferred. The yield of the present invention using toluene as a solvent was about 86%. --